

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for broadcasting television signals transmits both encrypted program content and access control data over a satellite system to be received by a number of individual receivers, each of which has registered with the program provider by providing a public cryptographic key and hash codes representing the serial numbers of critical components within the receiver. The access control data, which is addressed to an individual receiver, includes data encrypted with the public key of the receiver, indicating the program content to be decrypted by the receiver using its private key. Whenever the receiver is powered on, the hash codes are generated and stored to ensure the components have not been changed. Each transmission from the receiver to the program provider is validated by checking the hash codes.